

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contamination preventing method during the conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming apparatus in which the recording medium is held while 5 conveyed and an image is formed on the recording medium, said method comprising:

a holding step for holding the recording medium by a holding member; and

10 a change step for changing a held portion of the recording medium held by the holding member when the holding time in the holding step exceeds a predetermined time.

2. The contamination preventing method 15 according to claim 1, wherein the change step is performed in such a manner that when the holding time of the recording medium exceeds the predetermined time, the recording medium is fed by a predetermined distance, so that the held portion held by the 20 holding member is changed to another portion.

3. The contamination preventing method according to claim 1, wherein the change step is performed in such a manner that when the holding time 25 of the recording medium exceeds the predetermined time, the recording medium is fed by a variable distance, so that the held portion held by the

holding member is changed to another portion.

4. The contamination preventing method according to claim 1, wherein the change step is 5 performed in such a manner that, upon reception of an image formation start command, the recording medium is returned to a predetermined position before starting an image formation.

10 5. A contamination preventing method during the conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming apparatus in which the recording medium is held while conveyed and an image is formed on the recording medium, said method comprising:

15 a holding step for holding the recording medium by a holding member; and

16 a cut-off step for cutting off a contaminated portion of the recording medium due to holding of the recording medium by the holding member when the 20 holding time in the holding step reaches a predetermined time before performing an image formation.

6. A contamination preventing method during the 25 conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming apparatus in which the recording medium is held while conveyed and an image is formed on the recording

IMAGE SEPARATION

medium, said method comprising:

a holding step for holding the recording medium by a holding member; and

a conveyance step for conveying a contaminated 5 portion of the recording medium due to holding of the recording medium by the holding member when the holding time in the holding step reaches a predetermined time as well as a non-contaminated portion continuous to the contaminated portion, so 10 that image formation is performed on a portion after the conveyed portion.

7. A contamination preventing method during the conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming 15 apparatus in which the recording medium is held while conveyed and an image is formed on the recording medium, said method comprising:

a holding step for holding the recording medium by a holding member; and

20 a holding force change step for changing a holding force of the recording medium by the holding member, so as to change an intrusion amount of the holding member into the recording medium when the holding time in the holding step reaches a 25 predetermined time.

8. The contamination preventing method

according to claim 7, wherein the holding force change step is performed in such a manner that upon reception of an image formation start command, the holding force and the intrusion amount with respect 5 to the recording medium are returned to the previous states before performing an image formation.

9. A contamination preventing method during the conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming 10 apparatus in which the recording medium is held while conveyed and an image is formed on the recording medium, said method comprising:

a holding step for holding the recording medium by a holding member; and

15 a holding force release step for releasing holding of the recording medium by the holding member when the holding time in the holding step reaches a predetermined time.

20 10. The contamination preventing method according to claim 9, wherein the holding force release step is performed in such a manner that upon reception of an image formation start command, the holding force and the intrusion amount with respect 25 to the recording medium are returned to the previous states before performing an image formation.

RECORDED-TO-RECORDED

11. A contamination preventing method during  
the conveyance of a recording medium of an image  
forming apparatus in which the recording medium is  
held while conveyed and an image is formed on the  
5 recording medium, said method comprising:

a holding step for holding the recording medium  
by a holding member; and

a conveyance/holding step for conveying the  
recording medium and holding a non-image portion by  
10 the holding member when the holding time in the  
holding step reaches a predetermined time.

12. An image forming apparatus having a  
conveying unit for conveying a recording medium  
15 through an image formation block, said apparatus  
comprising:

a holding member for holding the recording  
medium when conveying the recording medium through  
the image formation block; and

20 control means for performing control in such a  
manner that a contact portion of the recording medium  
held by the holding member is maintained only for a  
predetermined time and is changed to another contact  
portion from time to time.

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13. The image forming apparatus according to  
claim 12, wherein the control means performs control

in such a manner that when a holding time holding the recording medium by the holding member exceeds a predetermined time, the recording medium is conveyed by a predetermined distance by the conveying unit.

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14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control means performs control in such a manner that when a holding time holding the recording medium by the holding member exceeds a predetermined time, the recording medium is conveyed by a indefinite distance by the conveying unit.

15 15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control means performs control in such a manner that when a holding time holding the recording medium by the holding member exceeds a predetermined time, a contaminated portion of the recording member contaminated by the holding member is cut off before performing an image formation.

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16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control means performs control in such a manner that when a holding time holding the recording medium by the holding member exceeds a predetermined time, a contaminated portion of the recording member contaminated by the holding member is conveyed additionally before performing an image

formation.

17. The image forming apparatus according to  
claim 12, wherein the control means performs control  
5 in such a manner that upon reception of an image  
formation start command, the recording medium is  
returned to a predetermined position before  
performing an image formation.

10 18. The image forming apparatus according to  
claim 12, wherein the control means performs control  
in such a manner that when a holding time holding the  
recording medium by the holding member exceeds a  
predetermined time, pressure of the holding member  
15 against the recording medium is changed and an  
intrusion amount of the holding member into the  
recording medium is changed.

19. The image forming apparatus according to  
20 claim 18, wherein the control means performs control  
in such a manner that upon reception of an image  
formation start command, the pressure of the holding  
member against the recording medium and the intrusion  
amount of the holding member into the recording  
25 medium are returned to the previous states before  
performing an image formation.

20. The image forming apparatus according to  
claim 12, wherein the control means performs control  
in such a manner that when a holding time holding the  
recording medium by the holding member exceeds a  
5 predetermined time, the holding member is separated  
from the recording medium so as to release the  
pressure of the holding member against the recording  
medium.

10 21. The image forming apparatus according to  
claim 20, wherein the control means performs control  
in such a manner that upon reception of an image  
formation start command, the pressure of the holding  
member against the recording medium and the intrusion  
15 amount of the holding member into the recording  
medium are returned to the previous states before  
performing an image formation.

22. The image forming apparatus according to  
20 claim 12, wherein the control means performs control  
in such a manner that when a holding time holding the  
recording medium by the holding member exceeds a  
predetermined time, the recording medium is conveyed  
and the holding member is made to hold a non-image  
25 portion.

23. The image forming apparatus according to

claim 12, wherein the holding member is a roller or pad.

24. The image forming apparatus according to  
5 claim 12, wherein the image formation block performs recording on the recording medium using an ink jet recording head for discharging ink.